

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. An apparatus for securing a box cover to a meter box, said apparatus comprising:

 a clamping member, wherein said clamping member further comprises a clamp, a clamp actuating member, and a fastening shelf having a first securing means; and
 a lock housing having a second securing means.

10

 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp further comprises opposed, substantially parallel walls on which a pivoting member is disposed.

 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first securing means further
15 comprises a portion of said fastening shelf through which an aperture has been formed.

 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said second securing means comprises a portion of said lock housing through which an aperture has been formed.

20 5. The apparatus of either of claims 3 or 4, wherein each of said apertures are approximately cylindrical apertures.

 6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plunger type fastener.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said plunger type fastener further comprises a retaining member.

5 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp actuating member rotates about a rotational axis established by disposition of an engagement member on a body portion of said clamping member.

9. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said clamp actuating member is
10 captured between said opposed, substantially parallel walls of said clamp when said clamp actuating member is disposed in a fully secured position.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein one end of said clamp actuating member receives an input force and rotates about an axis established by disposition of an
15 engagement member disposed on said clamping member, and then translates a mechanical force to an opposite end of said clamp actuating member that is greater than the input force.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp actuating member has a
20 tactile feedback indicator for indicating when said clamp actuating member has been fully rotated into a secure position.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp is disposed between said clamp actuating member and said fastening shelf.

5 13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp further comprises a stopping member for stopping a rotational sweep of said clamp actuating member after said clamp actuating member is disposed in a fully secured position.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp imparts a spring force that
10 holds said clamp actuating member in a fully secured position.

15. A method for securing a box cover to a meter box, said method comprising:

disposing a clamping member over a wall portion of said meter box, wherein said
15 clamping member comprises a clamp, a clamp actuating member, and a fastening shelf having a first securing means;

disposing a lock housing in functional cooperation with said clamping member, wherein said lock housing comprises a second securing means; and

securing said clamping member using said lock housing.

20

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a fastening shelf so that said first securing means comprises a body portion of said fastening shelf through which an aperture has been formed.

5 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising disposing a lock housing so that said second securing means comprises a lock housing through which an aperture has been formed.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising disposing a fastening shelf
10 and a lock housing so that said first securing means and said second securing means comprise approximately cylindrical apertures.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a plunger type fastener.

15

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising disposing a plunger type fastener, and then securing said plunger type fastener by means of a retaining member.

21. The method of claim 15, further comprising rotating said clamp actuating
20 member about a rotational axis established by disposition of an engagement member disposed on a body portion of said clamping member.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

delivering an input force to one end of said clamp actuating member so that said
clamp actuating member rotates about a rotational axis established by disposition of an
5 engagement member on said clamping member; and

translating said input force into a mechanical clamping force that is greater than
the input force.

23. The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing a clamp actuating
10 member having a tactile feedback indicator to indicate when said clamp actuating
member has been fully rotated into a secure position.

24. The method of claim 15, further comprising disposing said clamp between
said clamp actuating member and said fastening shelf.
15

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising disposing a clamp having a
stopping member, wherein said stopping member stops a rotational sweep of said clamp
actuating member after said clamp actuating member is disposed in a fully secured
position.

20

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising disposing a clamp imparting a spring force that holds said clamp actuating member in a fully secured position.

27. A method of securing a ringless socket box lid to a socket box, said
5 method comprising:

disposing a base support structure in proximity with a wall portion of said socket box, wherein said base support structure comprises a bracket and a fastening lever;

securing said base support structure to said wall portion of said socket box by hanging said base support structure over said wall portion and then rotating said fastening
10 lever toward a fully secured position;

installing a socket box lid, wherein said socket box lid is only fully installable if said fastening lever has been rotated completely into a fully secured position; and

affixing a lock housing to said base support structure, wherein said lock housing holds said socket box lid securely in place.